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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council adopts annual report to General Assembly; held 143 formal meetings, adopted 87 resolutions and issued 68 Presidential statements between 16 June 1993 and 15 June 1994.

+ Liberia in desperate state after recent political, military and humanitarian developments, Secretary-General says; UNOMIL mandate should be extended for two months pending high-level consultations with ECOWAS.

+ Secretary-General reports very slow political progress in Abkhazia despite strenuous efforts by Special Envoy for Georgia.

+ IAEA Director-General tells General Assembly Iraq has no practical capability to produce nuclear weapons; South Pacific Forum to participate as observer in Assembly's work.

+ Secretary-General welcomes agreement reached in Geneva by Democratic People's Republic of Korea and United States.

+ Peace accord initialled by Israel and Jordan in Amman offers hope for comprehensive Middle East settlement in near future, Secretary-General says.

+ Human Rights Committee begins fifty-second session in Geneva; to consider state of civil and political rights in Nepal, Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen and Libya.

+ General Assembly holds International Conference on Families; hears addresses by Secretary-General and Assembly President.

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The Security Council today adopted its forty-ninth report to the General Assembly, covering the period 16 June 1993 to 15 June 1994. In that time, the Council held 143 formal meetings, adopted 87 resolutions and issued 68

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Presidential statements. It held 252 consultations of the whole, and considered over 120 reports by the Secretary-General and more than 1,500 documents and communications from States and intergovernmental organizations.

Part I of the report deals with questions considered by the Council under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, including the situations in Haiti, the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Part II deals with such matters as the admission of members and documentation, while Part III covers the work of the Military Staff Committee. Part IV lists communications on matters brought to the attention of the Council but not discussed in formal meetings.

The report also deals with subsidiary organs of the Council, including the Committees established with regard to the situations in South Africa, Libya and Somalia; the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, set up to review claims resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait; the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq; and the Commission of Experts on violations of humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. The International Tribunal on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia held three sessions in the Hague, and adopted rules of procedure and evidence, and rules on the detention of persons awaiting trial. Meanwhile, the Prosecutor's office began its investigations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that political, military and humanitarian developments in the past month have left Liberia in a desperate state. In a report to the Security Council dated 14 October, he said the peace process had stalled. Reports from all quarters suggested that there could be no military solution to the conflict, which threatened the stability of the subregion. The factions were able to sustain the fighting because of a continuing supply of arms and ammunition. Meanwhile, Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania had warned that they might withdraw their contingents from the Economic Community of West African States' Military Observer Group (ECOMOG).

The Secretary-General said he had decided to dispatch a high-level mission to consult with the Chairman of ECOWAS, President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, on the respective roles of ECOMOG and the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL). He recommended that the Council extend UNOMIL's mandate for two months to give the high-level mission time to conduct its work and to present its conclusions.

The quest for peace could only be successful if the Liberians demonstrated that they were ready for genuine national reconciliation based on mutual respect and accomodation, he continued. However, while the responsibility for peace lay primarily with the Liberians themselves, the international community had not provided adequate material support for the regional peace effort through ECOMOG.

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Political progress in Abkhazia has been very slow despite strenuous efforts by the Special Envoy for Georgia and others, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council dated 14 October, he said the Abkhaz unwillingness to accept an early return of refugees had created significant difficulties and had contributed to holding up progress on other issues.

The parties continued to demonstrate a commitment to negotiations on the return of refugees and displaced persons, but differences remained regarding the conditions and rhythm of the process, the report noted. However, they had agreed on the need to restore the necessary security conditions in the area to which the refugees would return. Progress on the refugee question would allow the Special Envoy to concentrate on negotiating the political status of Abkhazia, which was at the core of the conflict. Without advances in both those areas, tensions would continue to rise to the detriment of both sides.

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The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, told the General Assembly yesterday that Iraq had no practical capability to produce nuclear weapons. As the Assembly considered the 1993 IAEA report, he said that the Agency had conducted 26 inspections in Iraq since 1991, and that the country's clandestine nuclear weapons programme had been thoroughly investigated. The IAEA had also completed the destruction or removal of Iraq's weapons-useable materials, equipment and facilities.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr. Blix went on to say, the IAEA had found evidence suggesting the existence of unreported plutonium. No progress had been made in securing access to additional information and locations, as requested in 1993. The problem had been aggravated by the discharge of spent fuel without the appropriate safeguards. As long as the People's Republic was not providing full transparency through full acceptance of safeguards, it would be impossible to verify the completeness of the nuclear inventory declared in 1992.

The Assembly had before it a draft resolution which would, among other things, urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate immediately with the IAEA in fully implementing the safeguards agreement and to allow the Agency access to all relevant information and locations. It would also express grave concern over the country's failure to discharge its safeguards obligations. The People's Republic denounced the draft as "an insidious political offensive aimed at increasing international pressure" against it. Adoption of the resolution would only create complications in the bilateral talks with the United States. The Assembly was scheduled to act on the draft tomorrow.

Also yesterday, in a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly invited the South Pacific Forum to participate as an observer in its work.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warmly welcomed the broad agreement reached in talks in Geneva between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States on a range of nuclear and other issues. He expressed the hope that the agreement would pave the way to the normalization of the situation in the Korean Peninsula.

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The Secretary-General also welcomed the peace accord which was initialled in Amman yesterday by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Majali of Jordan. Their agreement on the difficult issues of water-sharing and borders represented another milestone in the Middle East peace process, he said. It offered fresh hope that a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the region would be achieved in the near future.

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The Human Rights Committee yesterday began its fifty-second session in Geneva. The Committee, composed of 18 independent human rights experts, monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the 127 countries that have ratified it.

In an opening statement, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ibrahima Fall said the United Nations would benefit from the Committee's establishment of an assistance programme for Rwanda. He noted that that the Special Rapporteur on human rights in that country had already conducted two field missions. The Commission of Experts set up by the Security Council to examine grave rights violations in Rwanda had begun its activities, while the High Commissioner for Human Rights was fielding a team of observers.

During the session, the Committee will consider the state of civil and political rights in Nepal, Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen and Libya. It will also examine communications from individuals alleging that their rights under the International Covenant have been violated.

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Action to support the family is an important part of the global development effort, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the General Assembly's International Conference on Families today. He said the United Nations must maintain the momentum generated by the International Year of the Family. Mechanisms for future action were already in place. The World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women would be held next year -- the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. The human family must be united in its dedication to sustainable development for all, he stressed.

Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) told the Conference that the United Nations was on the verge of crystallizing a development pattern centred on the human being. Its basic elements would include peace, sustained economic growth, environmental protection, social justice, democracy and good governance. By proclaiming 1994 as the International Year of the Family, the Assembly had reinforced the family's role as the fundamental learning place and practising ground of values, rights, responsibilities